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**EIGHT-AND-UNDER GIRLS PREPARE** for the 25-yard backstroke at the 38th annual Smoky Mountain Invitational Swim Meet at Springbrook Pool on Sunday morning.

# Younger swimmers jump into Smoky Mountain Invitational

**BY MARK ALEWINE**

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The swimming action continued Sunday in the second day of the 38th annual Smoky Mountain Invitational Swim Meet at Springbrook Pool in Alcoa.

Swimmers 10 years and under took their turns in the water after watching their older teammates compete on Saturday.

For the Maryville/Alcoa Flying Dolphins, it was a day to catch up to the competition.

"We've had an amazing day," said Flying Dol-

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phins head coach Michele Brown.

"At least 90 percent of our swimmers have dropped time, and one of our girls

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**A BOYS 25-YARD BACKSTROKE** gets under way at the Smoky Mountain Invitational Swim Meet at Springbrook Pool on Sunday morning.

# INVITATIONAL: Flying Dolphins record top-five finishes

**FROM 1B**

dropped 20 seconds off her breaststroke time.”

The Flying Dolphins recorded several top five finishes, including a first-place finish in the mixed 100-yard freestyle relay. Nine-year-old Lauren Eccles placed fourth in the girls 100-yard individual medley, and teammates Seth Jenks and Drew Willoughby finished second and fifth, respectively, in the boys 100-yard

IM. Jenks also placed fifth in the boys 25-yard backstroke.

“We’ve done really well today. They’ve been little steamboats,” said co-head coach Christina Weston.

Eight-year-old Isabella DuBois finished fourth in the girls 8-and-under, 50-yard freestyle.

“This was her first time ever swimming this race,” Brown said.

The Flying Dolphins finished 10th in team points

with 453. Village Green was the top team in the meet.

Brown had hoped for a top five team finish for the Flying Dolphins, but she stressed the success of the weekend is measured in the experience gained by the young competitors.

“They’ve done great. The weekend’s gone amazingly well and we’ve had some great swims,” she said.

The Green Meadow Swim Team had top five finishes as well. Ten-year-old Drew

Crowder gave an impressive performance with a win in the boys 50-yard backstroke and a fourth-place finish in the boys 100 IM. Eight-year-old Wes Tate earned third place in the boys 8-and-under, 25-yard freestyle.

Green Meadow, whose full complement of swimmers didn’t compete in the Invitational, was 19th among the 27 teams competing.

Both teams will compete in the Greater Knoxville Invitational on July 22-24.